

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 13326

EXDIS

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, US, EEC
SUBJECT: US-EURATOM RENEGOTIATION

1. BRUNNER GAVE ME JULY 7 LONG-AWAITED COMMISSION REPLY (SEPTEL) TO OUR NOTES OF LAST YEAR CONCERNING US-EURATOM RENEGOTIATION. I SCANNED IT AND TOLD HIM IT LOOKED GOOD TO ME. HE SAID THAT NEVERTHELESS WE HAD UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 10, TO SEE IF THERE WERE ANY PROBLEMS. IF HE HADN'T HEARD FROM US, HE WOULD ANNOUNCE ON MONDAY THAT HE HAD DELIVERED THE REPLY. HE WOULD NOT MAKE IT PUBLIC ALTHOUGH HE SUPPOSED THE TEXT WOULD EVENTUALLY LEAK. HE NEITHER EXPECTED NOR WANTED A FURTHER WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FROM US. HE THEN REFERRED BRIEFLY TO THE LATEST NOSENZO CONVERSATIONS WITH SPAAK, WHICH I INFER WERE HELPFUL ON THE FINAL TEXT.

2. I ASKED HOW HE SAW MATTERS DEVELOPING NOW THAT THIS STEP WAS BEHIND US. HE SAID THAT IN SEPTEMBER THE EURATOM STAFF WOULD BEGIN TO THINK THROUGH THEIR IDEAS AS TO HOW TO PROCEED ON SUBSTANCE, AND THAT PERHAPS BY NOVEMBER DISCUSSIONS COULD BEGIN. THE COMMISSION COULD GO QUITE A WAY ON ITS OWN, SINCE ONE GREAT ADVANTAGE OF THE DIS-

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CUSSION FORMULA WAS THAT THE COMMISSION NEEDED NO MANDATE FROM THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO BEGIN THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN FACT, THE COMMISSION COULD HAVE DELIVERED A REPLY SIMILAR TO WHAT WE NOW HAD MONTHS AGO SINCE IT WAS FULLY WITHIN ITS TREATY RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT TO HAVE DONE SO WOULD HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY INSANE. A MANDATE WOULD BE NECESSARY, OF COURSE, BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE

CONCLUDED.

3. I COMMENTED THAT THE ADVANTAGE THE COMMISSION SAW IN THE DISCUSSION FORMULA CARRIED WITH IT A CERTAIN RISK AND THAT, AS HE KNEW, WE INTENDED TO MAKE AN EXECUTIVE BRANCH JUDGMENT THAT EURATOM HAD AGREED TO NEGOTIATE. IT SEEMED TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO BE SEEN TO BE INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IN THE EARLY FALL. NOVEMBER STRUCK ME AS A BIT LATE. WE CHATTED ABOUT HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE, AND I SUGGESTED THAT NOSENZO, WHO I THOUGHT WOULD LEAD OUR NEGOTIATING TEAM, MIGHT COME HERE IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. BRUNNER REACTED POSITIVELY AND SAID HE EXPECTED SCHUSTER AND HAMMER TO HEAD THE COMMISSION TEAM. HE ALSO SAID THAT, TO LAUNCH THE NEGOTIATIONS, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO TO WASHINGTON, AND HE THOUGHT THE ADVANTAGE OF THIS WOULD BE SOME PUBLICITY. FINALLY, I MENTIONED AS A THIRD POSSIBILITY THAT I THOUGHT GERRY SMITH MIGHT COME TO BRUSSELS IN OCTOBER IN CONNECTION WITH HIS LIKELY ATTENDANCE AT THE IAEA IN VIENNA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE IT IS CLEAR THAT NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT BEGIN UNTIL THE FALL, EARLY GUIDANCE RELATING TO OUR PREFERENCE AMONG THE THREE POSSIBILITIES MENTIONED ABOVE, OR OTHERWISE, WOULD BE APPRECIATED. HINTON

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